

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE
CHAIRMAN PRO TEMPORE

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Pursuant to House Resolution 504, the Chair announces that he will reduce to a minimum of 5 minutes the period of time within which a vote by electronic device may be taken on each amendment on which the Chair has postponed further proceedings.

AMENDMENT NO. 6 OFFERED BY MR. SANDERS

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. The question is on amendment No. 6 offered by the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 241, noes 185, not voting 8, as follows:

[Roll No. 314]

AYES—241

Abercrombie	DeGette	Kennedy (MA)
Ackerman	Delahunt	Kennedy (RI)
Allen	DeLauro	Kildee
Andrews	Deutsch	Kilpatrick
Archer	Dicks	Kind (WI)
Army	Dooley	Klecza
Baesler	Doolittle	Kolbe
Baldacci	Dreier	LaFalce
Barcia	Duncan	Latham
Barr	Dunn	LaTourette
Barrett (WI)	Ehrlich	Leach
Bass	Emerson	Lewis (GA)
Becerra	Ensign	Lewis (KY)
Berry	Etheridge	Lipinski
Bilbray	Evans	LoBiondo
Bishop	Fazio	Lofgren
Blagojevich	Filner	Luther
Blumenauer	Foley	Maloney (NY)
Boehrlert	Fowler	Manton
Bonior	Franks (NJ)	Manzullo
Bono	Furse	Markley
Boswell	Ganske	Martinez
Boucher	Gekas	McCarthy (MO)
Boyd	Gibbons	McCarthy (NY)
Brown (FL)	Goode	McCollum
Brown (OH)	Goodlatte	McGovern
Bryant	Goodling	McHale
Bunning	Graham	McHugh
Buyer	Gutierrez	McInnis
Calvert	Hansen	McIntosh
Camp	Hastings (FL)	McIntyre
Campbell	Hastings (WA)	McKinney
Canady	Hayworth	Meehan
Cannon	Hefley	Meek (FL)
Capps	Hefner	Menendez
Carson	Herger	Metcalfe
Chabot	Hill	Millender-McDonald
Chenoweth	Hilliard	
Clay	Hinchey	Minge
Clayton	Hinojosa	Mink
Clyburn	Hoekstra	Moran (KS)
Coble	Hookey	Morella
Collins	Horn	Myrick
Condit	Hostettler	Nadler
Conyers	Houghton	Neal
Cox	Hulshof	Nethercutt
Crane	Hutchinson	Neumann
Crapo	Jackson (IL)	Northup
Cubin	Jefferson	Norwood
Cummings	Jenkins	Nussle
Cunningham	Johnson (CT)	Oberstar
Danner	Johnson (WI)	Obey
Davis (FL)	Jones	Owens
Davis (IL)	Kaptur	Pallone
Deal	Kasich	Pappas
DeFazio	Kelly	Parker

Pascrell	Sanders	Sununu
Pastor	Scarborough	Tanner
Paul	Schaffer, Bob	Taylor (MS)
Payne	Schumer	Taylor (NC)
Pease	Sensenbrenner	Thompson
Peterson (MN)	Serrano	Thune
Peterson (PA)	Shadegg	Thurman
Petri	Shays	Torres
Pickering	Sherman	Towns
Pombo	Skelton	Velazquez
Portman	Slaughter	Vento
Quinn	Smith (MI)	Waters
Radanovich	Smith (NJ)	Watt (NC)
Rahall	Smith (OR)	Waxman
Ramstad	Smith, Adam	Weldon (FL)
Riggs	Smith, Linda	Weller
Rivers	Snyder	Wexler
Rogers	Solomon	Weygand
Rohrabacher	Spratt	White
Rothman	Stabenow	Whitfield
Roukema	Stearns	Wicker
Roybal-Allard	Stokes	Woolsey
Royce	Strickland	Wynn
Rush	Stump	Young (AK)
Salmon	Stupak	

NOES—185

Aderholt	Gillmor	Oxley
Bachus	Gilman	Packard
Baker	Gordon	Paxon
Ballenger	Goss	Pelosi
Barrett (NE)	Granger	Pickett
Bartlett	Green	Pitts
Barton	Greenwood	Pomeroy
Bateman	Gutknecht	Porter
Bentsen	Hall (OH)	Poshard
Bereuter	Hall (TX)	Price (NC)
Berman	Hamilton	Pryce (OH)
Bilirakis	Hastert	Rangel
Bliley	Hilleary	Redmond
Blunt	Hobson	Regula
Boehner	Holden	Reyes
Bonilla	Hoyer	Riley
Borski	Hunter	Rodriguez
Brady (PA)	Hyde	Roemer
Brady (TX)	Inglis	Rogan
Brown (CA)	Istook	Ros-Lehtinen
Burr	Jackson-Lee	Ryun
Burton	(TX)	Sabo
Callahan	Johnson, E. B.	Sanchez
Cardin	Johnson, Sam	Sandlin
Castle	Kanjorski	Sanford
Chambliss	Kennelly	Sawyer
Christensen	Kim	Saxton
Clement	King (NY)	Schaefer, Dan
Coburn	Kingston	Scott
Combest	Klink	Sessions
Cook	Klug	Shaw
Cooksey	Knollenberg	Shimkus
Costello	Kucinich	Shuster
Coyne	LaHood	Sisisky
Cramer	Lampson	Skaggs
Davis (VA)	Lantos	Skeane
DeLay	Largent	Smith (TX)
Diaz-Balart	Lazio	Snowbarger
Dickey	Lee	Souder
Dingell	Levin	Spence
Doggett	Lewis (CA)	Stark
Doyle	Linder	Stenholm
Edwards	Livingston	Talent
Ehlers	Lowe	Tauscher
Engel	Lucas	Tauzin
English	Maloney (CT)	Thomas
Eshoo	Mascara	Thornberry
Everett	Matsui	Tiahrt
Ewing	McCrery	Tierney
Farr	McDade	Traficant
Fattah	McDermott	Turner
Fawell	McKeon	Upton
Forbes	Meeks (NY)	Visclosky
Fossella	Mica	Walsh
Fox	Miller (CA)	Wamp
Frank (MA)	Miller (FL)	Watkins
Frelinghuysen	Mollohan	Watts (OK)
Frost	Moran (VA)	Weldon (PA)
Gallegly	Murtha	Wilson
Gejdenson	Ney	Wise
Gephardt	Olver	Wolf
Gilchrist	Ortiz	Yates

NOT VOTING—8

Dixon	Harman	Moakley
Ford	John	Young (FL)
Gonzalez	McNulty	

□ 1848

Mr. FOSSELLA changed his vote from “aye” to “no.”

Messrs. McCOLLUM, SCHUMER and DICKS changed their vote from “no” to “aye.”

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MC GOVERN

The CHAIRMAN. The pending business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The Clerk designated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The CHAIRMAN. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The CHAIRMAN. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 203, noes 221, not voting 10, as follows:

[Roll No. 315]

AYES—203

Abercrombie	Frank (MA)	McGovern
Ackerman	Furse	McHale
Allen	Gekas	McIntyre
Andrews	Gephardt	McKinney
Bachus	Gilman	Meehan
Baesler	Goode	Meek (FL)
Baldacci	Graham	Meeks (NY)
Barcia	Greenwood	Menendez
Barrett (WI)	Gutierrez	Mica
Bass	Hastings (FL)	Millender-McDonald
Becerra	Hayworth	Miller (CA)
Bereuter	Hefner	Mink
Berman	Hilliard	Moran (VA)
Berry	Hinchey	Morella
Bilbray	Hinojosa	Myrick
Bilirakis	Hookey	Nadler
Bishop	Horn	Neal
Blagojevich	Houghton	Nethercutt
Blumenauer	Hulshof	Neumann
Boehrlert	Hunter	Oberstar
Bonior	Inglis	Obey
Boyd	Jackson (IL)	Olver
Brown (FL)	Jackson-Lee	Owens
Brown (OH)	(TX)	Pallone
Burton	Jefferson	Pappas
Camp	Johnson (CT)	Pascrell
Campbell	Johnson (WI)	Pastor
Canady	Kaptur	Pease
Cannon	Kelly	Pelosi
Capps	Kennedy (MA)	Petri
Carson	Kennedy (RI)	Pitts
Chabot	Kennelly	Poshard
Chenoweth	Kildee	Price (NC)
Clay	Kilpatrick	Quinn
Clayton	Kind (WI)	Rahall
Clyburn	King (NY)	Rangel
Coble	Klecza	Reyes
Collins	Klink	Rivers
Condit	Klug	Rodriguez
Conyers	LaFalce	Rothman
Cox	Lampson	Roybal-Allard
Crane	Lantos	Rush
Crapo	Lazio	Sanchez
Cubin	Leach	Sanders
Cummings	Lee	Schumer
Cunningham	Levin	Serrano
Danner	Lewis (CA)	Shays
Davis (FL)	Lewis (GA)	Sherman
Davis (IL)	Lipinski	Skelton
Davis (VA)	Lofgren	Slaughter
DeFazio	Lowey	Smith (MI)
DeGette	Luther	Smith (NJ)
Delahunt	Maloney (CT)	Smith, Adam
DeLauro	Maloney (NY)	Snowbarger
Deutsch	Manton	Snyder
Dicks	Markey	Spratt
Dingell	Martinez	Stabenow
Doggett	Matsui	Stark
Ehrlich	Filner	Strickland
Engel	Forbes	
Eshoo	Fox	
Etheridge		
Evans		
Farr		
Fawell		
Filner		
Forbes		
Fox		

Stupak
Sununu
Tauscher
Thompson
Thune
Thurman
Tierney
Torres

Towns
Turner
Upton
Velazquez
Vento
Waters
Watt (NC)
Waxman

Weldon (PA)
Weller
Wexler
Weygand
Woolsey
Wynn

□ 1900

Mr. WHITE. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to engage the chairman of the subcommittee in a colloquy if I could do that, please.

Mr. REGULA. If the gentleman will yield, yes, I will be happy to engage in a colloquy.

Mr. WHITE. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from Ohio for the opportunity to speak in support of resolving the Elwha River Restoration Project. I appreciate the committee's leadership over the past three years in helping secure funding toward the acquisition of Elwha and Glines dams. This project is something we have been trying to get started since 1995, and I am pleased that we are finally starting to move in the right direction.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Chairman, if the gentleman will yield, I appreciate the gentleman from Washington's leadership on this issue over the past 3 years. It is very clear that the gentleman is deeply committed to seeing this project through to the end. I hope we can continue to look for ways to build on the support for the Elwha project.

Mr. WHITE. Mr. Chairman, as the gentleman knows, I have been a strong proponent of providing funding for restoration efforts on the Elwha River in the Olympic Peninsula in Washington State. We spend about \$435 million every year on the Columbia and Snake Rivers and do not have as much to show for it as we would like. In the case of the Elwha, a one-time payment of a much smaller amount will create a pristine river and perfect salmon habitat from glacier to salt water, and it is an investment well worth making.

For the past 3 years, I have been working with the gentleman, Senator GORTON, who is the chairman of the Senate Interior Committee on Appropriations, and my good friend and colleague the gentleman from Washington (Mr. DICKS) on this issue. When we started this process in 1995, there was not much interest in the Elwha project and Senator GORTON had strong reservations about moving forward.

But a lot has changed over the past 3 years. Through some blood, sweat, and tears, we have made considerable progress in securing funding for the Elwha project and moving a little closer to salmon restoration on the Elwha River. We started this process with authorizing language in the fiscal year 1997 Budget Resolution recognizing the environmental benefits of restoring this pristine and unique river system. Since 1995, we have been successful in securing \$11 million in funding toward acquiring these dams.

As the gentleman may know, Mr. Chairman, during consideration of the Senate Interior Appropriations bill for fiscal year 1999, Senator GORTON included language authorizing acquisition of both the Elwha and Glines dams and authorized the removal of both dams subject to the availability of appropriations.

In the process, however, Senator GORTON made clear that the uses of the Federal hydroelectric facilities on the Columbia and Snake Rivers would not be affected by actions on the Elwha. I agree wholeheartedly with the Senator's intention.

Senator GORTON and I have not always agreed on the details of this project. However, I am very pleased that he has indicated a willingness to make changes to his current position and will continue to encourage him to act sooner rather than later on the Elwha River project.

That is why today I introduced legislation that modifies the language that Senator GORTON included in the Senator Interior Appropriations bill. My legislation will authorize acquisition of both facilities and will authorize the removal of the lower Elwha dam subject to the availability of appropriations. My bill also includes an independent scientific review on the benefits of removal prior to removal of the upper Glines dam so that whatever decision we make is based on good, sound science.

Mr. Chairman, I strongly share Senator GORTON's concerns that the actions taken on the Elwha dam set absolutely no precedent on dam removal on the Columbia or Snake Rivers or their tributaries. For that reason, my bill specifically states that dam removal on the Elwha River will not set a precedent on the Columbia or Snake River systems. Finally, my bill provides that no hydroelectric facility can be removed or significantly modified structurally without congressional approval.

Mr. Chairman, it is my hope that, as we work out the final details on the Interior Appropriations bill that you will consider the bill I introduced today as a balanced solution to restoring salmon on the Elwha River.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. WHITE. I am happy to yield to the gentleman from Ohio.

Mr. REGULA. I thank the gentleman for his leadership on this issue. I am familiar with it, and I certainly will look with interest at his suggestions and look forward to working with him in an effort to keep the Elwha project moving ahead.

Ms. DUNN. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

Mr. Chairman, I rise to enter into a colloquy with the chairman of the Subcommittee on the Interior.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to take a moment to congratulate the gentleman for all of his very successful work during his chairmanship to prioritize funding for the National Park Service, especially for the crown jewels of the service, our national parks.

Under the gentleman's leadership, the National Park System has continued to see increased funding that has helped to mitigate terrible backlogs in operations and maintenance in all of the National Park Service units.

NOES—221

Aderholt
Archer
Armey
Baker
Ballenger
Barr
Barrett (NE)
Bartlett
Barton
Bateman
Bentsen
Bliley
Blunt
Boehner
Bonilla
Bono
Borski
Boswell
Boucher
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Brown (CA)
Bryant
Bunning
Burr
Buyer
Callahan
Calvert
Canady
Cannon
Castle
Chabot
Chambliss
Chenoweth
Christensen
Clay
Coble
Coburn
Collins
Combest
Condit
Cook
Cooksey
Cox
Crane
Crapo
Cubin
Cunningham
Deal
DeLay
Diaz-Balart
Dickey
Dooley
Doolittle
Doyle
Dreier
Duncan
Dunn
Edwards
Ehlers
Emerson
English
Everett
Ewing
Fattah
Fazio
Foley
Fossella
Fowler
Franks (NJ)
Frelinghuysen
Frost
Gallegly
Ganske

Gejdenson
Gibbons
Gilchrest
Gillmor
Goodlatte
Goodling
Gordon
Goss
Granger
Green
Gutknecht
Hall (OH)
Hall (TX)
Hamilton
Hansen
Hastert
Hastings (WA)
Hefley
Herger
Hill
Hilleary
Hobson
Hoekstra
Holden
Hostettler
Hoyer
Hutchinson
Hyde
Istook
Jenkins
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Kasich
Kim
Kingston
Knollenberg
Kolbe
Kucinich
LaHood
Largent
Latham
LaTourette
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Livingston
LoBiondo
Lucas
Manzullo
Mascara
McCollum
McCrery
McDade
McHugh
McInnis
McIntosh
McKeon
Metcalfe
Miller (FL)
Minge
Mollohan
Moran (KS)
Murtha
Ney
Northup
Norwood
Nussle
Ortiz
Oxley
Packard
Parker
Paul
Paxon
Payne

Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Pickering
Pickett
Pombo
Pomeroy
Porter
Portman
Pryce (OH)
Ramstad
Redmond
Regula
Riggs
Riley
Roemer
Rogan
Rogers
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Roukema
Royce
Ryun
Sabo
Salmon
Sandlin
Sanford
Sawyer
Saxton
Scarborough
Schaefer, Dan
Schaffer, Bob
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shadegg
Shaw
Shimkus
Shuster
Sisisky
Skaggs
Skeen
Smith (OR)
Smith (TX)
Smith, Linda
Solomon
Souder
Spence
Stearns
Stenholm
Stokes
Stump
Talent
Tanner
Tauzin
Taylor (MS)
Taylor (NC)
Thomas
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Traffant
Visclosky
Walsh
Wamp
Watkins
Watts (OK)
Weldon (FL)
White
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson
Wise
Wolf
Yates
Young (AK)

NOT VOTING—10

Dixon
Ford
Gonzalez
Harman

John
Kanjorski
McNulty
Moakley
Radanovich
Young (FL)

□ 1858

Mr. HASTERT and Mr. MINGE changed their vote from "aye" to "no." So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

As the gentleman knows, my congressional district is home to one of our oldest national parks, Mt. Rainier. In fact, Mt. Rainier will turn 100 years old in March of 1999 and has been the recipient of much-needed funds to take care of severe maintenance backlog and construction needs.

Unfortunately, it is far too difficult for the average park enthusiast to find out how much money his or her favorite park needs in any given year. Separating the funding of the national parks into its own category would make it much easier for the public to track the annual funding levels.

On January 7, 1997, I introduced the Crown Jewel National Parks Act to accomplish this common sense reform.

As chairman of the Subcommittee on Interior of the Committee on Appropriations, however, the gentleman has the authority to require that the administration create a separate category for all project funding requests for our 54 national parks.

If I am correct, Mr. Chairman, I respectfully request that the gentleman instruct the administration to make this change beginning in the next fiscal year. This change will give the public the ability to more clearly see how their hard-earned dollars are being spent.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Ms. DUNN. I yield to the gentleman from Ohio.

Mr. REGULA. Yes, that is true. As the chairman of the Subcommittee on the Interior, I do have the authority to require that the administration separate national park funding from the other units under the National Park Service.

I am pleased that the gentlewoman from Washington brought this to my attention and agree that creating a separate category for the national parks will greatly benefit the ability of the public to understand what is happening. In addition, it will enable them to more easily discover that this Congress is committed to taking care of what we have in the public trust.

This year, we have again increased the operating budget of the National Park Service. Under this bill, the National Park Service will receive \$99.3 million more than last year.

This subcommittee will continue to make every effort to spend the taxpayers' dollar wisely and exercise appropriate fiscal constraint in carrying out programs financed by the public. We will also continue to encourage the administration to do the same as they compile and submit their budget to Congress.

The gentlewoman from Washington State has my assurance that I will make this request of the administration before the next budget cycle begins.

Ms. DUNN. Mr. Chairman, I thank the subcommittee chairman and congratulate him on his fine work in increasing the budget of the National Park Service.

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

Mr. Chairman, I rise to engage the distinguished chairman of the Subcommittee on the Interior in a colloquy regarding the language to encourage the U.S. Forrest Service to continue the Pinhoti Trail into the Cohutta region of the Chattahoochee National Forest in the State of Georgia.

In the Interior Appropriations bill for fiscal year 1995, I was successful in allocating funds for construction of the Pinhoti Trail in the Armuchee Division of the forest. As the population of Atlanta continues to grow, the Pinhoti Trail has become a high-use recreational area. This trail is now over-used, so we really need to see that it is extended.

Does the committee encourage that the Pinhoti Trail be continued in the Cohutta region of the Chattahoochee National Forest?

Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentleman from Ohio.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Chairman, let me say before responding that we have put substantial funding in the trails generally, and I am a strong proponent of trails.

As I mentioned earlier, we, this year, thanks to leadership of the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. YATES) and past years, we are making the final payment on the Appalachian Trail, and I think it ends in Georgia, if I am not mistaken.

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. It either ends or begins, whichever way you look at it.

Mr. REGULA. That is, the glass is half full or half empty.

The gentleman understands that there are limited resources available to the committee. However, due to the increasing population growth in Georgia, we will encourage the U.S. Forest Service to consider extending the Pinhoti Trail into the Cohutta region of the Chattahoochee National Forest.

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

Mr. Chairman, this bill contains an historic agreement that has been worked out over many months of negotiations that permanently eliminates the Purchaser Road Credit program that currently subsidizes timber companies to build logging roads in our national forests. As a result, I and others will oppose other amendments to this section this year.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the chairman, a gentleman for whom I have the greatest admiration and respect, for his willingness to participate and carry this provision in this bill and I want to thank Members on both sides of this issue who have spent a great deal of time and effort, and most particularly their staff members who have done such a fine job in working this out.

Katharine Fisher of my staff spent many, many hours in negotiations, as did many others, to carefully craft this

agreement. I believe that it is historic in its achievements, and I thank the chairman for his patience and willingness to help us enact it into law.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to engage the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA) in a colloquy.

Mr. Chairman, am I correct that our intention in reaching this agreement on Forest Service roads in section 330 is to change who pays for the construction and reconstructions of roads necessary to access timber sales in our national forests by eliminating the Purchaser Credit Program?

No longer will it be the responsibility of U.S. taxpayers but rather the timber purchasers themselves will pay for the construction and reconstructions of roads needed to access their national forest timber sales?

Further, is it our intention that those roads constructed and reconstructed by timber purchasers will continue to comply with all environmental laws and minimize the impact on natural resource values, such as water quality?

Finally, Mr. Chairman, do we also intend that the Secretary may not require timber purchasers to pay for the construction and reconstruction of roads beyond those standards used for timber roads, such as for recreation or for frequent use, without compensating the timber purchaser?

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman from Illinois yield?

Mr. PORTER. I yield to the gentleman from Ohio.

Mr. REGULA. The gentleman from Illinois is correct.

Mr. PORTER. I thank the gentleman very much.

Mr. GREENWOOD. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the chairman of the Subcommittee on the Interior of the Committee on Appropriations to enter into a colloquy to discuss legislation of particular importance to me and many of my colleagues, the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Chairman, if the gentleman will yield, I would be very pleased to join in a discussion with the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. GREENWOOD. Mr. Chairman, as the chairman knows, the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act would provide safeguard for this Nation's precious and delicate migratory bird population. This program fosters nontraditional partnerships among the business community, nongovernmental organizations and Western Hemisphere nations.

Joining private enterprise with international environmental organizations combines their capital and know-how needed for a successful venture. Partnering these entities with local organizations in the targeted countries encourages and trains local people to carry out the preservation of habitat critical to migratory birds.

In the event that this legislation is enacted before the bill is conferenced

with the Senate, I would like to request that consideration be given to funding by the conferees. However, if that is not the case, I would encourage the Department of Interior to consider the funding of this program a priority in its fiscal year 2000 budget.

Mr. Chairman, I recognize the many challenges you face in balancing competing needs and projects in the Interior bill but I would like to emphasize the importance this program plays in arresting the decline of our Nation's neotropical migratory bird population.

□ 1915.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. GREENWOOD. I yield to the gentleman from Ohio.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Chairman, I am familiar with this. I have martins that come visit us every summer, and, of course, they migrate to South America. So this kind of thing affects the bird population that moves back and forth between North and South America.

As the gentleman from Pennsylvania points out, there are many competing demands on the limited funds in this bill, but I do recognize the importance of protecting the Neotropical migratory bird population. While we cannot meet every request, as evidenced by these three books with letters from Members, I assure the gentleman that I will work with the gentleman and the Department of Interior to ensure appropriate funding for the program once the legislation is enacted.

I might say I congratulate the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GREENWOOD) on making this effort. I think it is very important.

Mr. GREENWOOD. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the commitment and support of the chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. The Committee will rise informally.

The Speaker pro tempore (Mr. RIGGS) assumed the chair.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Sherman Williams, one of his secretaries.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Committee will resume its sitting.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

The Committee resumed its sitting.

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

Mr. KENNEDY of Massachusetts. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. DICKS. I yield to my distinguished friend, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY), who, along with the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. PORTER), have been two of the people who worked the hardest to try to bring their vision of reform to the

National Forest system, to ensure sustainability, to ensure the fact that timber roads are built properly, that we have the highest environmental standards and that we improve these roads and protect our natural heritage.

I regret very much that the gentleman and I have not always seen eye to eye, but I regret the fact he is not going to be with us next year. I have enjoyed working with the gentleman.

Mr. KENNEDY of Massachusetts. Mr. Chairman, first of all, let me just thank my good friend from Washington (Mr. DICKS). Everyone in the country listening to the debate should understand that there is no one in the Congress of the United States that is responsible for cutting down more trees than the gentleman from Washington (Mr. DICKS).

Mr. DICKS. No, that is not true.

Mr. KENNEDY of Massachusetts. Mr. Chairman, I want to congratulate the gentleman for his phenomenal victory that he has been able to maintain over the course of the last many, many years in this body.

But, on a serious note, we ought to recognize a great warrior in politics, and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. DICKS) certainly fulfills that description. His defense of making certain that we do have proper forestry management in this country is something that I have come to understand better because of the debates that he has fostered on the House floor, and it is important for those of us who want to protect our Nation's forests to understand that our forests have to be managed.

But also it is important for us to make certain that we are not providing taxpayer subsidies to lumber companies that do not need them, lumber companies that have made tremendous profits as a result of the largess of the taxpayers and the people of our Nation and the national heritage of our country, which has the most phenomenal and beautiful forests of any country on the face of the Earth.

I recognize that we need to strike a balance in terms of the types of policies and recognize that it does take taxpayer revenues to support the management of our forests, and we ought to be honest and the Forest Service ought to be honest about what accounts they really need to have, and how much money they need to have, in order to properly manage our forests.

If there are roads that need to be improved, if there are damaged areas of our forest that need to be tended to, if there are fire roads that need to be built, we ought to build those roads, and we ought to put the money in the account that the Forest Service needs. But what we ought not to do is turn around and give subsidies to lumber companies that simply do not need them. Far too often in the past we have commingled those funds and had a complete misunderstanding about what actually we were paying for.

I believe that the administration's policy, which I know the chairman of

the committee has now gone along with, as well as my friend the gentleman from Washington (Mr. DICKS), which gets rid of the purchase-a-road credit program, which suspends the forest subsidies, the lumber subsidies we were giving to the timber companies, which recognizes that we ought to have and continue this moratorium into the future, until we get an honest accounting of what in fact the Forest Service needs and what they do not need.

I have never backed away from asking for taxpayer dollars for legitimate needs of the people of this country. Where there are legitimate needs of our forests, we ought to provide the funding. But we ought not to be mixing up and providing funding to lumber companies that are simply using subsidies that they do not need in order to make more and more profits.

I want to commend the gentleman from Washington (Mr. DICKS), the chairman of the committee, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA), and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. PORTER) for the efforts they have made, and also want to say the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. FURSE) has an amendment which is coming up which I believe will once again highlight some of the discrepancies and issues that need to be addressed further in order to clarify exactly what accounts we ought to be putting money in and what accounts we should not be putting money in.

I do want to thank my good friend the gentleman from Washington (Mr. DICKS), and recognize the great contribution he makes.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. DICKS. I yield to the gentleman from Ohio.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Chairman, I just want to associate myself with the remarks of the gentleman from Washington (Mr. DICKS) and compliment all the parties and the goodwill of the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY). We had a spirited debate on this issue last year, as we all know, and I think we have reached a reasonable compromise. I hope that the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) will look at the numbers. I think we have done in the bill much of what the gentleman is suggesting there in terms of funding reconstruction of roads, trying to improve forest health, and making the forest a viable part of our Nation's recreation resources.

The CHAIRMAN. The time of the gentleman from Washington (Mr. DICKS) has expired.

(By unanimous consent, Mr. DICKS was allowed to proceed for one additional minute.)

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA).

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Chairman, the forest is a viable part of our Nation's recreational resource, as well as a source of wood fiber under proper circumstances. Unfortunately, I will not be able to use my two-by-four as evidence this year, so I will point out, so